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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 00703 180959Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 MCE-00 /056 W
----------040003 181007Z /10
O P 180840Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO FAA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7509
AMEMBASSY ROME NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0703

ROME, FRANKFURT, LONDON FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, MOPS, MMOL, EG, SO, TC
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON ASSUMED U.S. REGISTERED AIRCRAFT

1. EMBOFF NOTIFIED 18 MARCH BY ABU DHABI DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVAITION (BRITISH) THAT DC-8-61 REGISTRATION NUMBER N8960T REQUESTED TECHNICAL LANDING ENROUTE MOGADISCIO FROM CAIRO AT APPROXIMATELY 0300 HOURS LOCAL 18 MARCH. THIS IS FIRST ACTUAL LANDING, FOLLOWING REQUEST FROM CAIRO RECEIVED 14 MARCH, FOR

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ROUTING OF TEN FLIGHTS BY SAME AIRCRAFT FROM CAIRO VIA ABU DHABI TO MOGADISCIO. FLIGHTS WERE TO MAKE TECHNICAL STOP TURNAROUND IN ONE HOUR EACH TIME AT 0300 HOURS TO MOGADISCIO. CARGO WAS DECLARED AS "MACHINE PARTS" FROM "UNITED ARAB INDUSTRIAL COMPANY." IN FACT, THIS LOAD IS LARGE (38 TONS APPROXIMATELY) SHIPMENT OF SMALL ARMS AND

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POSSIBLY MORTAR AMMUNITION, PALLETIZED AND MARKED ENTIRELY
IN ARABIC.

2. ACCORDING DIRCIVAIR, FOLLOWING
LANDING, UNDERCARRIAGE COLLAPSED ON ONE SIDE, WITH
STRUTS PUNCTURING TIRES AS PLANE CAME TO HALT IN
TERMINAL AREA. DISASTER AVERTED ON LANDING ONLY BY
GOOD LUCK. IN DIRCIVAIR'S OPINION, PLANE CLEARLY
OVERLOADED, AND IS IN GENERALLY VERY POOR CONDITION.
IT IS NOW LITERALLY SINKING INTO TARMAC AT ABU DHABI
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON EXPOSED STRUTS, BUT ENGINES
HAVE NOT YET REACHED GROUND. REPAIRS WILL TAKE
MINIMUM SEVERAL DAYS, BUT AT MOMENT CONDITION OF
STABILITY OF AMMO IS UNKNOWN, AND DIRCIVAIR IS
CONCERNED AS HEAT BUILDS UP AT MIDDAY. MILITARY HAVE
ARRIVED TO ASSIST IN OFF-LOADING.

3. ONLY IDENTIFICATION OF CREW SO FAR AVAILABLE
INDICATED PILOT IS CAPT. DAVIS WITH CREW OF FOUR.
ALL ARE SAID TO BE AMERICAN, AND HAVE REGISTERED AT NEARBY
HOTEL. AIRCRAFT OWNER WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED AS
"EGYPTCARGO", BUT REGISTRATION NUMBER POINTS TO
"SEABOARD WORLD." HOWEVER, CALL-SIGNS USED BY
PLANE ARE THOSE OF "AEROCOSTA," A COLUMBIA-BASED
OPERATION. POSSIBLY AS PRELIMINARY TO PERMANENT
GROUNDING, DIRCIVAIR REQUESTS ALL INFO AVAILABLE
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FROM FAA ON AIRCRAFT, OWNERS, AND CAPT. DAVIS.
(WILL FORWARD OTHER CREW NAMES WHEN AVAILABLE.)
POST REQUESTS GUIDANCE ON WHETHER CREW IN VIOLATION
OF U.S. AND/OR INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND WHAT ACTION,
IF ANY, POST SHOULD TAKE IF THEY ARE.
DICKMAN

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